

Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Program: Program Overview, Puget Sound Conceptual Model and Guiding Principles

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Abstract

The Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Program's objective is to develop a plan for restoring nearshore habitat of Puget Sound for the benefit of biological resources and the integrity of the ecosystem. The authors, known as the Nearshore Science Team, purpose is to provide broad scientific guidance to the program. The overall program is described. The first two products are presented: (1) a conceptual model that describes natural functions and processes within the nearshore environment that support salmon and other key species, and describe how these processes interact with human uses. While the conceptual model focus on the nearshore, it recognizes connections to upland, watershed and offshore systems for potential inclusion in cross system comparisons, and (2) Guiding Principles (GP) are that guide all aspects of the Program, including providing the context to all actions taken, their planning, design, implementation, and adaptive monitoring and evaluation. These GPs set the sideboards of what can be studied and where and how protection and restoration actions should take place. The GP's focus on ecological concepts critical to nearshore ecosystem restoration and conservation.